

**Listing of Claims**

1-55. Cancelled

56. (Currently Amended) A computer-implemented method comprising:

**selecting a child class from a class hierarchy, wherein**

**the class hierarchy comprises**

**the child class, and**

**a parent class,**

**the parent class and the child class are associated with one another,**

**the child class is configured to inherit an attribute of the parent class,**

**the child class comprises one or more associated attributes,**

**the one or more associated attributes comprise the attribute,**

**the one or more associated attributes are configured to describe an item,**

**the selecting the child class is based on the one or more associated attributes,**

**the selecting the child class is performed such that each of the one or more**

**associated attributes has a non-null value to describe the item,**

**the attribute has a first domain associated with the parent class and a second**

**domain associated with the child class, and**

**the second domain is more restrictive than the first domain;**

associating [[an]] **the** item with [[a]] **the child** class, wherein

~~**the class comprises associated attributes that describe**~~

~~**the attribute describes one or more**~~ members of the **child** class,

~~**the associating comprises determining a class in a hierarchy,**~~

~~**the determining is based on associated attributes**~~

**the one or more associated attributes are** necessary to describe the item, **and**

the **one or more** associated attributes are associated with the **child** class in the

**class hierarchy**[[, and]]

~~**the associating the item comprises selecting the class such that each**~~

~~**associated attribute has a non-null value in describing the item;**~~

storing a first record associating